Introduction to Abuse

Enabling Learning Objectives

1. Select from a list the definitions of drug, tolerance, dependence, withdrawal, and addiction.
2. Select from a list the modes of drug ingestion and which modes are fastest and slowest.

Terminology

- **WHAT IS A DRUG?**
  - **A drug is any substance that when ingested into the body changes the way the organism functions.**
- **TOLERANCE:**
  - **A stage of drug abuse in which the brain and body get used to a drug, causing a person to have to take more and more of the drug to get the same “HIGH”.**

Terminology

- **DEPENDENCE:**
  - **A stage of drug abuse in which a person needs a drug just to feel okay.**
- **WITHDRAWAL:**
  - **A stage of drug abuse when a drug “wears off” because the user stops taking the drug or use of the drug is discontinued. The user is often in physical pain and may suffer from depression, hallucinations and/or delusions.**

Terminology

- **ADDICTION:**
  - **A style of living characterized by compulsive use and overwhelming involvement with a drug. A stage of drug abuse in which the user cannot stop taking the drug despite serious negative consequences; the drug takes control of the brain and overpowers the body's natural signals.**

HOW DRUGS GET TO THE BRAIN

Modes of Ingestion vs Time

- Orally 20 - 30 Minutes (Slowest)
- Inhaling 07 - 10 Seconds (Fastest)
- Injecting 15 - 30 Seconds – Intravenously (IV)

  03 - 05 Minutes – Intramuscularly (IM)
- Snorting 03 - 05 Minutes
- Skin Contact 03 - 05 Minutes